



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EST (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - January 17, 2002

- ***In the West***, for the second consecutive day, low temperatures ranged generally from 27 to 32 degrees F in ***California's San Joaquin Valley***, posing little threat to citrus fruits. Elsewhere in the region, cool, mostly dry weather prevails.
- ***On the Plains***, a few snow flurries in ***Oklahoma and southern Kansas*** are providing little relief from unfavorably dry conditions. Most of the remainder of the region, particularly ***Montana***, is also in need of moisture, as dry fields and a lack of snow cover continue to leave winter wheat stands vulnerable to windy weather and potential temperature extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, mild, dry weather favors overwintering wheat and off-season fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are developing ***west of the Delta***. Elsewhere in the region, mild, dry weather favors fieldwork and winter grain development.

Outlook: A series of storm systems will provide unsettled weather to much of the nation into early next week. Beneficial precipitation will return to the ***Northwest*** by week's end, while occasional rain is likely across the ***South***. Periodic snow is possible from the ***Ohio Valley to the Mid-Atlantic region***. However, the ***Plains and the Southwest*** will remain unfavorably dry. Although bitterly cold air will be confined to the ***upper Midwest***, additional frosts and freezes are forecast through Saturday morning in ***California's San Joaquin Valley***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 22-26 calls for cold weather to persist across the ***western half of the U.S.*** Although beneficial precipitation is forecast to continue in the ***Northwest***, unfavorably dry conditions are likely to prevail in the ***Southwest*** and across much of the ***Plains***. Near- to above-normal precipitation and temperatures are expected from the ***Mississippi Valley to the East Coast***, with some snow likely in the ***Great Lakes region*** and heavy rain possible in the ***Southeast***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)